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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL SUB-ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-NINTH SESSION

EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN

Letter dated 21 September 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of the Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, in accordance with the provisions of rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion of "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan" as an additional sub-item, which would become sub-item "e", of item 37, "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance, of the agenda of the forty-ninth session regular session of the General Assembly.

The sub-item on Afghanistan proposed above is identical to item 41 of the agenda of the forty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, which appeared as an independent item.

An explanatory memorandum justifying the request is attached, in accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (see annex).

I would be glad if you could arrange for the distribution of the present request, including the explanatory memorandum, as an official document of the current regular session of the General Assembly.

(Signed) R. A. G. FARHADI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

Upon the recommendation of the Second Committee, the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth regular session, decided that all items pertaining to special economic assistance of the United Nations to the needy Member States should be considered by the Assembly at its forty-ninth session under one item, "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance".

Accordingly, in paragraph 45 of section IV of the memorandum by the Secretary-General containing the allocation of items submitted for the consideration of the General Committee (A/BUR/49/1), item 37 consists of four sub-items in which some of the items regarding special economic assistance, inter alia, that entitled "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan", have been omitted.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan submits the following considerations pertaining to the need to add a sub-item "e", entitled "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan", to item 37 of the agenda of the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly:

(a) The item on assistance to Afghanistan as it appears in the agenda of the last session of the General Assembly cannot be considered as an item of a purely economic character. As you and the distinguished representatives of the Member States are aware, the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, decided to modify the title of the item to include "peace and normalcy" as one of the main objectives for the attainment of which the United Nations would take some initiatives;

(b) In adopting resolution 48/208 of 21 December 1993, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to appoint a special mission to be dispatched to Afghanistan in order to encourage and support the political process in the country aimed at finding a political solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. Pursuant to that resolution, the Secretary-General appointed a United Nations special mission, headed by Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri, to travel to Afghanistan and to canvass a broad spectrum of Afghan opinion on how the United Nations could assist the political process in Afghanistan and its reconstruction;

(c) The special mission, after conducting two rounds of consultations, is now at the beginning of the third round. The report of the special mission, which is predominantly a political one, contains many recommendations on political assistance of the international community to Afghanistan. The report will be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration under the item on Afghanistan;

(d) In the light of the above and in particular in view of the examination of the situation in Afghanistan by the Security Council on three different

occasions during 1994, the Islamic State of Afghanistan is of the opinion that the consideration of "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan" urgently needs to be considered as a sub-item to item 37, if not an independent item. This would be more suitable to maintain the momentum of the international community's attention on Afghanistan and as a response to the report of the United Nations special mission headed by Ambassador Mestiri.

It is the expectation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan that the item will be discussed in plenary, as recommended.

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